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Subpart A—Introduction

§ 651.1 Purpose.

This regulation sets forth policy, responsibilities, and procedures for integrating environmental considerations into Army planning and decision-making. It establishes a criteria for determining what Army actions are categorically excluded from requirements to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and lists applicable categorical exclusions (CX) in appendix A.

§ 651.2 References.

Required and related publications and referenced forms are listed in appendix B.

§ 651.3 Explanation of abbreviations and terms.

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the Glossary.

§ 651.4 Responsibilities.

(a) The Secretary of the Army (SA) has designated the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Logistics (ASA (I&L))) to serve as the Army's responsible official for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) matters.

(b) The Chief of Engineers (COE) has the responsibility for coordinating and monitoring NEPA activities within the Army. Through the Assistant Chief of Engineers (DAEN-ZC), the Army Environmental Office is the Army Staff (ARSTAF) point of contact (POC) for environmental matters.

(c) The Assistant Chief of Engineers (ACE) will—

(1) Provide assistance to Army agencies in completing environmental analysis and documentation through identifying and quantifying environmental impacts and selecting impact mitigation techniques.

(2) In cases of multiple Army agency involvement, designate a single agency or lead office with responsibility for preparing and processing environmental documentation; assign Army lead agency responsibility in cases of non-Army agency involvement.

(3) Review and comment on Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) submitted by Army, other Department of Defense (DOD) components, and other Federal agencies.

(4) Monitor proposed Army policy and program documents that have environmental implications to determine compliance with NEPA requirements and to ensure integration of environmental considerations into the decisionmaking process.

(5) Maintain liaison with the Office of Management and Budget, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other Federal, State, and local agencies on environmental policies that may affect the Army. This liaison assists in identifying and evaluating applicable regulatory policies for proposed actions.

(6) Maintain a current record from which access to EISs may be obtained from the proponent. Also, maintain a record of actions of national concern that resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

(7) Establish procedures for retention of EISs prepared by the Department of the Army (DA).

(8) Require the revision or preparation of environmental documents, as appropriate, to ensure adequate consideration of environmental impacts when a proponent has failed to do so.

(9) Comment on EISs within those areas of assigned staff responsibility and technical capability.

(10) Resolve issues in determining if a public hearing or public scoping meeting is appropriate for the proposed action and assign the responsibility to an appropriate office.

(d) Heads of Headquarters, Department of Army (HQDA) agencies will—

(1) Apply policies and procedures herein to programs and actions within their staff responsibility except for State funded operations of the Army National Guard (ARNG).

(2) Task the appropriate component with preparation of environmental assessments (EAs) and/or EISs. Proponents (defined in the Glossary) may conduct their preparation in-house, through contract, or pursue indirect

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preparation with the assistance of supporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Districts.

(3) Initiate the preparation of necessary environmental documentation, assess proposed programs and projects to determine their environmental consequences, and initiate environmental documents for circulation and review along with other planning or decision-making documents. These documents include a completed DD Form 1391 (Military Construction Project Data), Case Study and Justification Folder, Integrated Program Summary, and other documents proposing or supporting proposed programs or projects.

(4) Coordinate appropriate environmental documents with ARSTAF agencies.

(5) Designate, record, and report the identity of the agency's single POC for NEPA considerations to the Army Environmental Office.

(6) Assist in the review of environmental documents prepared by DOD and other Army or Federal agencies, as requested.

(7) Coordinate proposed directives, instructions, regulations, and major policy publications that have environmental implications with the Army Environmental Office.

(8) Maintain the capability (personnel and other resources) to comply with the requirements of this regulation.

(9) Prepare and maintain a record of decision (ROD) on each EIS for which they are the staff proponent.

(e) The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management) will establish procedures to ensure compliance with requirements for environmental exhibits and displays of data in support of annual authorization requests.

(f) The Judge Advocate General will provide legal advice and assistance in interpreting NEPA and CEQ regulations. The Judge Advocate General will interface with the Army General Counsel, Corps of Engineers General Counsel, and the Department of Justice on NEPA related litigation.

(g) The Surgeon General is responsible for environmental review related to the health and welfare aspects of proposed EISs submitted to HQDA.

(h) The Chief of Public Affairs is the POC for media inquiries of national significance. The Chief will—

(1) Provide guidance on issuing public announcements such as FNSI, Notices of Intent (NOI), scoping procedures, Notices of Availability (NOA), and other public involvement activities.

(2) Review and coordinate planned announcements on actions of local or national interest with appropriate ARSTAF elements and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (OASD (PA)).

(3) Provide public affairs guidance in conducting environmental programs.

(4) Be POC for media inquiries that are of national significance.

(5) Issue press releases that coincide with the publication of FNSIs, NOIs, and NOAs.

(i) The Chief of Legislative Liaison will notify members of Congress of impending EISs and EAs of national concern.

(j) Major Army command (MACOM) commanders, Chief, National Guard Bureau, and heads of agencies will—

(1) Monitor proposed actions and programs within their commands.

(2) Task the appropriate component with preparation of EAs and EISs and development of public involvement activities. Proponents may delegate authority to conduct their preparation in-house, through contract, or pursue indirect preparation with the assistance of supporting U.S. Army Corps Engineers Districts.

(3) Assure that appropriate environmental documentation is prepared and forwarded to the appropriate proponent.

(4) Apply policies and procedures set forth in this regulation to programs and actions within their command and staff responsibility.

(5) Initiate the preparation of necessary environmental documentation and assess the environmental consequences of proposed programs and projects.

(6) Circulate and review environmental documents at the same time with other planning or decisionmaking documents. These related documents include a completed DD Form 1391, Case Study and Justification Folder, Integrated Program Summary, and

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other documents proposing or supporting proposed programs or projects.

(7) Coordinate appropriate environmental documents and public affairs initiatives with HQDA agencies and the Army Environmental Office.

(8) Designate, record, and report the identity of the agency's single POC for NEPA considerations to the Army Environmental Office.

(9) Assist in the review of environmental documents prepared by DOD and other Army or Federal agencies, as requested.

(10) Coordinate proposed directives, instructions, regulations, and major policy publications that have environmental implications with the Army Environmental Office.

(11) Maintain the capability (personnel and other resources) to comply with the requirements of this regulation (See 40 CFR 1507.2.)

(12) Prepare and maintain a ROD on EISs for which they are the staff proponent.

(13) Develop public affairs initiatives, when appropriate, for actions requiring EAs and EISs.

(k) Installation, activity, and unit commanders will accomplish responsibilities listed in paragraphs (j) (1) through (3), (5), (7), and (9) of this section.

§ 651.5 Policies.

(a) The DA will endeavor to ensure the wise use of natural resources on Army land. The DA will match military mission activities with the ecological compatibility of the land and natural resources in order to maintain resources for realistic training, while minimizing the adverse impact on the human and natural environment. Decisionmakers will be cognizant of, and responsible for, the impact of their decisions on cultural resources; soils, forests, rangelands, water and air quality, and fish and wildlife; as well as other natural resources under their stewardship. The DA will identify significant environmental effects of proposed programs and projects in adequate detail. These effects will be considered in the decision process along with technical, economic, and other necessary factors. DA will carry out the mission of national security in a manner consistent

with NEPA and other applicable environmental standards, laws, and policies. DA will employ all practicable means consistent with other essential considerations of national policy to minimize or avoid adverse environmental consequences and attain the goals and objectives stated in sections 101 and 102 of NEPA. (See Appendix C.)

(b) Environmental considerations will be integrated into the decision-making process to ensure that—

(1) Major decision points are designated for principal programs and proposals likely to have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, while providing for the NEPA process to coincide with these decision points.

(2) Relevant environmental documents, comments, and responses accompany the proposal through the existing Army review and the decision-making process. The Army will integrate NEPA requirements with other planning and environmental review procedures required by law or Army practice so that review of environmental considerations is concurrent rather than consecutive.

(3) The alternatives considered are within the range of alternatives discussed in relevant environmental documents.

(c) Worldwide and long-range character of environmental problems will be recognized, and where consistent with national security requirements and United States (U.S.) foreign policy, appropriate support will be given to initiatives, resolutions, and programs designed to maximize international cooperation in protecting the quality of the world human environment. In accordance with Executive Order 12114, DOD Directive 6050.7, and subpart H of this regulation, an environmental planning and evaluation process will be incorporated into Army actions that may significantly affect global commons, environments of other nations, or any protected natural or ecological resources of global importance. (See subpart H.)

(d) Laws, other than NEPA, that require the Army to gain approval of other Federal, State, or local Government agencies before taking actions